



COLIN KELLY/STAFF

A toast to, 'Chesty'

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller received a fitting tribute Dec. 4 when Marines from Fort Lee, Va., hustled 68 miles on foot to give a toast at the decorated Marine's gravesite in Saluda, Va.

About 150 Marines took part in the 16th Annual Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller Memorial Relay Run to honor a man for his "tenacity and unbending commitment to Marines," the Corps reported.

Lt. Col. Joseph Monroe, left, offers a toast after the long run. The Marines were sipping

rum punch, a nod to the days of the American Revolution, when recruits at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia were given a little libation.

In his 37 years with the Corps, Puller served with the 1st Marine Division during World War II, fought in Korea and also served in China, Nicaragua and Haiti. Puller retired Nov. 1, 1955, with his last active-duty station at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He remains the only Marine to earn the Navy Cross five times. He died Oct. 11, 1971.